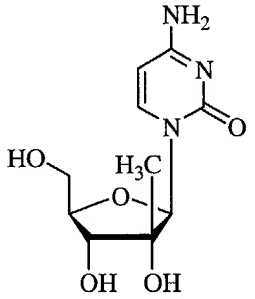
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

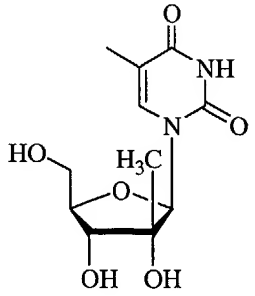
Claims 1-99 (cancelled)

Claim 100 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



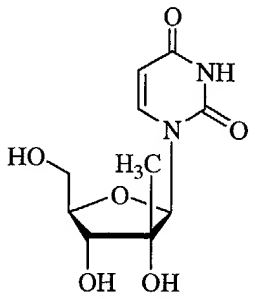
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diuluent.

Claim 101 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 102 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 103-130 (canceled)

Claim 131 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

Claim 132 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

Claim 133 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

Claim 134 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

Claim 135 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

Claim 136 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Claim 137 (cancelled)

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150 ~~claim 137~~, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound.

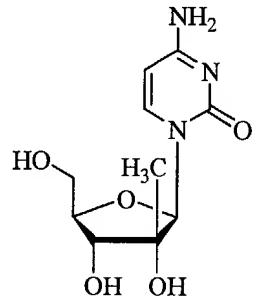
Claim 139 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150 ~~claim 137~~, wherein the ~~dosage unit~~ compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 140 (previously presented): The method of claim 138, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 141 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the host is a human.

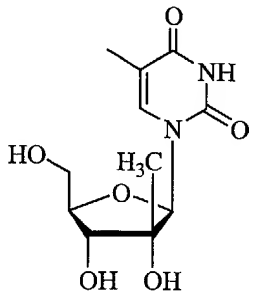
Claims 142-144 (canceled)

Claim 145 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



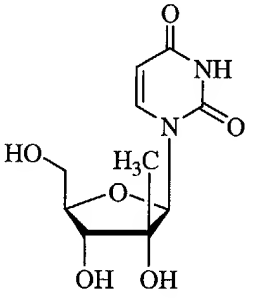
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 146 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



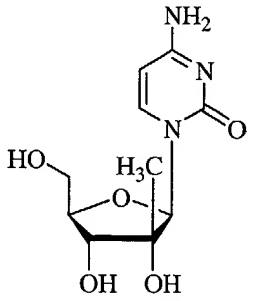
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 147 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



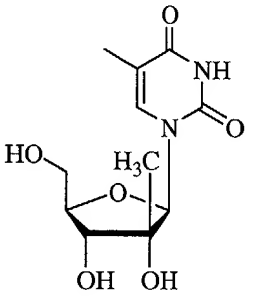
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 148 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



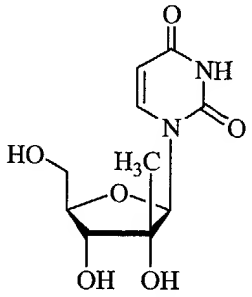
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 149 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 150 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

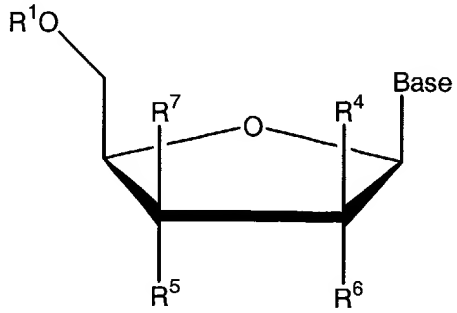
Claim 151 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV).

Claim 152 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a Dengue virus.

Claim 153 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a West Nile virus.

Claim 154 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 100, 101, 102, or 145-150, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a yellow fever virus.

Claim 155 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an anti-virally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent, wherein:

Base is a pyrimidine base;

R^1 is independently H; phosphate; stabilized phosphate prodrug; acyl; alkyl; sulfonate ester; ~~and~~ benzyl, wherein the phenyl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkoxy, aryloxy, nitro, cyano, sulfonic acid, sulfate, phosphonic acid, phosphate, and phosphonate; a lipid; an amino acid; a carbohydrate; a peptide; ~~a~~ cholesterol; or ~~other~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* ~~is capable of providing~~ provides a compound wherein R^1 is independently H or phosphate; and

R^4 is alkyl, alkynyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -C(O)O(lower alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(lower acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(lower alkyl), -O(alkenyl), halogen, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, or -N(acyl)$_2$; and

R^5 and R^6 are independently OR^1, hydroxy, alkyl, azido, cyano, alkenyl, alkynyl, Br-vinyl, -C(O)O(alkyl), -C(O)O(lower alkyl), -O(acyl), -O(lower acyl), -O(alkyl), -O(lower alkyl), -O(alkenyl), chlorine, bromine, iodine, NO_2, NH_2, -NH(lower alkyl), -NH(acyl), -N(lower alkyl)$_2$, or -N(acyl)$_2$;

R^7 is H, alkyl, chlorine, bromine, or iodine; and

X is O, S, SO_2, or CH_2.

Claim 156 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pyrimidine base is selected from the group consisting of thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-aza-pyrimidine, including 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrmidine, uracil, 5-halouracil, C^5-alkylpyrimidines, C^5-benzylpyrimidines, C^5-halopyrimidines, C^5-vinylpyrimidine, C^5-acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5-acyl pyrimidine, C^5-hydroxyalkyl purine, C^5-amidopyrimidine, C^5-cyanopyrimidine, C^5-nitropyrimidine, or C^5-aminopyrimidine.

Claim 157 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein R^4 is methyl, and R^5 and R^6 are hydroxyl.

Claim 158 (cancelled)

Claim 159 (currently amended): The method of claim 155 ~~158~~, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg of the compound.

Claim 160 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims 155 or 159 ~~claim 158~~, wherein the ~~dosage unit~~ compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

Claim 161 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the host is a human.

Claim 162 (currently amended): The method of claim 155, wherein the compound is ~~in substantially pure form~~ at least 85% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 163 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 164 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 165 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

Claim 166 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

Claim 167 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

Claim 168 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

Claim 169 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

Claim 170 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Claim 171 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV).

Claim 172 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a Dengue virus.

Claim 173 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a West Nile virus.

Claim 174 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein the pestivirus or flavivirus is a yellow fever virus.

Claim 175 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein R^4 is alkyl.

Claim 176 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein R^5 is hydroxy.

Claim 177 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein R^6 is hydroxy.

Claim 178 (previously presented): The method of claim 155, wherein R^7 is H.

Claim 179 (currently amended): The method as in any one of claims 100-102 or 145-150, wherein the compound is ~~in substantially pure form~~ at least 85% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 180 (previously presented): The method as in any one of claims 100-102 or 145-150, wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 181 (previously presented): The method as in any one of claims 100-102 or 145-150, wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the β-L-isomer.

Claim 182 (new): The method of claim 155, wherein R^1 is H.

Claim 183 (new): The method of claim 182, wherein R^4 is alkyl.

Claim 184 (new): The method of claim 183, wherein R^5 is hydroxy.

Claim 185 (new): The method of claim 184, wherein R^6 is hydroxy.

Claim 186 (new): The method of claim 185, wherein R^7 is H.

Claim 187 (new): The method of claim 155, wherein R^1 is an acyl.

Claim 188 (new): The method of claim 187, wherein R^4 is alkyl.

Claim 189 (new): The method of claim 188, wherein R^5 is hydroxy.

Claim 190 (new): The method of claim 189, wherein R^6 is hydroxy.

Claim 191 (new): The method of claim 190, wherein R^7 is H.

Claim 192 (new): The method of claim 155, wherein R^1 is a phosphate.

Claim 193 (new): The method of claim 192, wherein R^4 is alkyl.

Claim 194 (new): The method of claim 193, wherein R^5 is hydroxy.

Claim 195 (new): The method of claim 194, wherein R^6 is hydroxy.

Claim 196 (new): The method of claim 195, wherein R^7 is H.

Claim 197 (new): The method of claim 155, wherein R^1 is an amino acid.

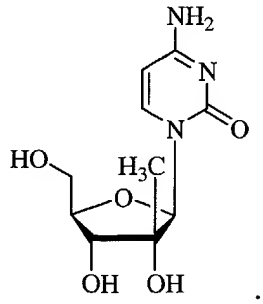
Claim 198 (new): The method of claim 197, wherein R^4 is alkyl.

Claim 199 (new): The method of claim 198, wherein R^5 is hydroxy.

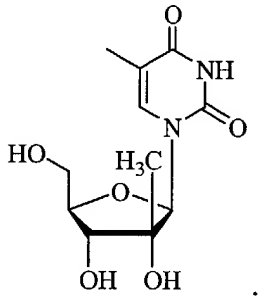
Claim 200 (new): The method of claim 199, wherein R^6 is hydroxy.

Claim 201 (new): The method of claim 200, wherein R^7 is H.

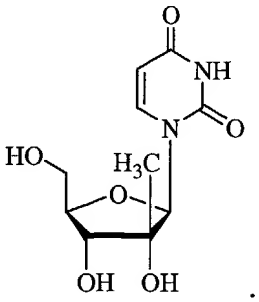
Claim 202 (new): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 203 (new): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 204 (new): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim 205 (new): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D- or β-L-2'-C-branched pyrimidine nucleoside.

Claim 206 (new): A method for the treatment of a flavivirus or pestivirus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering an antivirally effective amount of a β-D- or β-L-2'-C-branched pyrimidine ribonucleoside.

Claim 207 (new): The method of any one of claims 205-206, wherein the host is a human.